

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-10, 15, 16, and 19 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was objected to as containing an informality; Claims 1-4, 17, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,094,681 to Shaffer et al. (hereinafter “the ‘681 patent”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,341,279 to Nye (hereinafter “the ‘279 patent”); Claims 9-11 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘681 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,070,158 to Kirsch et al. (hereinafter “the ‘158 patent”); Claims 7, 8, 12, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘681 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,434,745 to Conley, Jr. et al. (hereinafter “the ‘745 patent”), further in view of the ‘185 patent; Claims 5, 6, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘681, ‘279, and ‘745 patents; and Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘681 and ‘279 patents, further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0038308 to Cappi (hereinafter “the ‘308 application”).

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the interview granted Applicants’ representative on September 16, 2009, at which time a proposed amendment to the claims was discussed. At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner indicated that the animated agent recited in amended Claims 9, 15, and 16 is likely not disclosed in any of the cited references.

Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to Claim 1 is rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim. Claim 1 has been amended to address the objection set forth in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, the objection is believed to have been overcome.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus, comprising: (1) an acquisition device configured to acquire associated information corresponding to an occurrence of a present event using existing information corresponding to a past event; (2) an event occurrence detection device configured to detect information corresponding to the occurrence of said present event; (3) a search device configured to search said existing information corresponding to the past event to retrieve related information having similarity to the information corresponding to the present event detected by the event occurrence detection device; and (4) a display control device configured to display said associated information corresponding to the occurrence of the present event that corresponds to the related information retrieved by said search device. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) the Office Action asserts that the '681 patent discloses everything in Claim 1, and asserts that the '279 patent "more clearly teaches present and past events being related."¹

The '681 patent is directed to a method for automatically providing remote notification of an ongoing event that includes detecting the event by receiving presently occurring data and analyzing the content of the occurring data by using a data filter. In particular, the '681 patent is directed to a method for providing automatic remote notification

¹ See page 4 of the outstanding Office Action.

of a locally detected event including designating at least one event as being of interest to a first user of a data network, monitoring the specified user-intended messages received via the data network for conveying message information to the first user; analyzing a content of the specified messages to determine whether the content is indicative of occurrence of one of the designated events; determining whether the first user is available to receive an automated event notification if the occurrence of an event is detected; automatically establishing a telecommunications link to a specified remote user device in response to a determination that the first user is unavailable; and transmitting the automated event notification to the specified remote user communication device via the telecommunications link.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '681 patent fails to disclose a search device configured to search the existing information corresponding to the past event to retrieve related information having similarity to the information corresponding to the present event detected by the event occurrence detection device, as recited in amended Claim 1.

Further, it follows that the '681 patent fails to disclose a display device configured to display the associated information corresponding to the occurrence of the present event that corresponds to the related information, as recited in amended Claim 1. On the contrary, the '681 patent is merely directed to notifying a user of current events and is unconcerned with past events.

The '279 patent is directed to a method of modeling an event including the steps of entering at least one record in a database, associating a state with the at least one record, the state representing the status of the at least one record; defining a plurality of events, wherein the plurality of events contain dependency logic interrelating the plurality of events; defining at least one event type associated with at least one of the plurality of events; defining an event model including at least one of the plurality of events and at least one of the event types; and defining an event metamodel including at least one of the event models, and changing the

state of the at least one record, in response to a change of the status of at least one record, using the event metamodel. In particular, the '279 patent discloses an event metamodel 600 in Figure 6, which illustrates how event models 601-605 are related.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '279 patent fails to disclose a search device configured to search the existing information corresponding to the past event to retrieve related information having similarity to the information corresponding to the present event detected by the event occurrence detection device, and a display control device configured to display the association information corresponding to the occurrence of the present event that corresponds to the related information, as recited in amended Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the '279 patent is silent regarding searching existing information corresponding to a past event to retrieve related information having similarity to the information corresponding to the present event, as required by Claim 1.

Thus, no matter how the teachings of the '681 and '279 patents are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest the search device and the display control device recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 (and all similarly rejected dependent claims) patentably defines over any proper combination of the '681 and '279 patents.

Amended Claim 9 is directed to an information processing apparatus for displaying an animated agent on a display device and for displaying associated information related to a text file processed by a predetermined application program, comprising: (1) a processing detection device configured to detect, as an event, predetermined processing of said predetermined application program; (2) a key word detection device configured to detect key words from said text file processed by said predetermined application program corresponding to said event detected by said processing detection device; (3) means for computing weights for said key words based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and searching for

said associated information for an important key word of the keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold by searching a database for a previously processed existing file corresponding to said important key word; (4) an input device configured to input a command; (5) a command processing device configured to execute, in response to said command inputted by said input device, processing on said associated information; and (6) a display control device configured to display, in response to said event detected by said processing detection device, said animated agent onto said display device and changing a manner of displaying said animated agent in response to said command inputted by said input device. The changes to Claim 9 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter. See, e.g., Figures 11-27B and the discussion related thereto in the specification. See, in particular, the animated agent 52 shown in Figure 11.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 9 is rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Office Action asserts that the '681 patent discloses everything in Claim 9 with the exception of text file processing means, and relies on the '158 patent to remedy that deficiency.

As discussed above, the '681 patent is directed to a method for providing automatic remote notification of a locally detected event.

However, as admitted in the outstanding Office Action, the '681 patent fails to disclose means for computing weights for the keywords based on use of a current frequency in the text file, and searching for the associated information for an important keyword of the keywords having a weight higher than predetermined threshold by searching a database for a previously processed existing file corresponding to the important keyword, as recited in amended Claim 9.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the '681 patent fails to disclose a display control device configured to display, in response to the event detected by the processing detection device, the animated agent on the display device and changing the manner of displaying the animated agent in response to the command inputted by the input device. In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that the '681 patent is silent regarding the animated agent recited in amended Claim 9.

The '158 patent is directed to a collection search system responsive to a user query regarding a collection of documents to provide a search report.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '158 patent is silent regarding a display control device configured to display, in response to the event detected by the processing detection device, the animated agent on the display device and changing a manner of displaying the animated agent in response to the command inputted by the input device. Applicants respectfully submit that the '158 patent is completely silent regarding the animated agent recited in amended Claim 9.

Thus, no matter how the teachings of the '681 and '158 patents are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest the display control device or the animated agent recited in amended Claim 9. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 9 (and all similarly rejected dependent claims) is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 9.

Independent Claims 15 and 16 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 9. In particular, Claims 15 and 16 recite displaying an animated agent onto a display device and changing a manner of displaying the animated agent in response to the command inputted in the inputting step. As discussed above, this step is not taught or suggested by any proper combination of the '681 and '158 patents. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully

submit that the rejections of Claims 15 and 16 are rendered moot by the present amendment to those claims.

Amended Claim 7 is directed to an information processing method for an information processing apparatus for detecting the keyword from a text file corresponding to an event that has taken place and displaying associated information corresponding to the keyword, comprising: (1) extracting attribute information from an existing text file; (2) extracting existing keywords from among words contained in said existing text file; (3) computing weights for said existing keywords based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and acquiring associated information for an important keyword of the existing keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold; (4) constructing a database by associating the important word with at least one of said attribute information extracted in the extracting step and said associated information acquired in the acquiring step; (5) detecting an occurrence of said event; (6) detecting an event keyword from said text file corresponding to said event detected in the event occurrence detecting step; (7) searching said database constructed in the database constructing step to retrieve said associated information corresponding to said event keyword detected in the event keyword detecting step; and (8) controlling displaying of said associated information retrieved in the searching step. The changes to Claim 7 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Office Action asserts that the '681 patent discloses everything in Claim 7 with the exception of extracting attribute information from an existing text file, acquiring the associated information; constructing a database; and computing weights for the important word, and relies on the '745 and '158 patents to remedy those deficiencies.

As discussed above, the '681 patent is directed to a method and system for automatically providing remote notification of a locally detected event.

However, as admitted in the outstanding Office Action, the '681 patent fails to disclose the steps of constructing a database by associating the important word with at least one of the attribute information and the associated information, as recited in amended Claim 7. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the '681 patent fails to disclose searching the database constructed in the database constructing step to retrieve the associated information corresponding to the event keyword detected in the event keyword detecting step, as recited in amended Claim 7. Since the '681 patent fails to disclose constructing a database, it is unclear to Applicants how the '681 patent can disclose searching the constructed database, as required by Claim 7, and asserted by the outstanding Office Action.

The '745 patent is directed to customized software stored in a computer readable medium including browser software, a graphical user interface, and an installation software program; publisher content; and means for monitoring a end-user behavior and maintaining a local event statistics database of end-user behavior on the end user's computer. In particular, the '745 patent is directed to a system for monitoring and maintaining statistics of the user's use of the Internet.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '745 patent fails to disclose constructing a database by associating the important word with at least one of the attribute information extracted in the extracting step and the associated information acquired in the acquiring step, as recited in amended Claim 7. In particular, the important word recited in Claim 7 is one of the extracted keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold. Applicants respectfully submit that the '745 patent fails to disclose that such a word is used to construct a database by associating the important word having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold with either the attribute information or the associated information, as recited in amended Claim 7. In this regard, Applicants note that page 13 of

the outstanding Office Action asserts that the '745 patent discloses the constructing step recited in Claim 7, but does not cite to any passage within the '745 patent.

As discussed above, the '158 patent is directed to a collection search system responsive to a user query regarding a collection of documents to provide a search report.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '158 patent fails to remedy the deficiencies of the '681 and '745 patents, with respect to the claimed constructing a database step. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that the '158 patent fails to disclose constructing a database by associating the important word (which is one of the extracted keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold) with at least one of the attribute information and the associated information, as recited in Claim 7. Rather, the Office Action cites the '158 patent as disclosing use of occurrence frequency in text.

Thus, no matter how the teachings of the '681, '745, and '158 patents are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest the step of constructing a database by associating the important word with at least one of the attribute information extracted in the extracting step and the associated information acquired in the acquiring step, as recited in amended Claim 7. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that no matter how the teachings of the '681, '158, and '745 patents are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest searching the database constructed in the database constructing step to retrieve the associated information corresponding to the event keyword detected in the event keyword detecting step, as recited in amended Claim 7.

In this regard, Applicants note that Claim 7 recites extracting existing keywords from among words contained in an existing text file, and then computing weights for the existing keywords and acquiring associated information for an important keyword which is one of the existing keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold. Further, Claim 7 requires detecting an event keyword from a text file corresponding to an event detected in the

event current detecting step. Thus, Applicants submit that Claim 7 recites both event keywords and existing keywords, which are not disclosed by any proper combination of the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 7 is rendered moot and that Claim 7 patentably defines over any proper combination of the '681, '158, and '745 patents.

Independent Claim 8 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 7. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 7, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 8 is rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim.

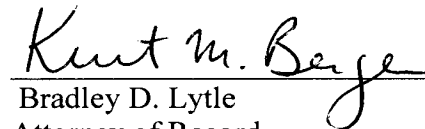
Regarding the rejection of dependent Claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants respectfully submit that those rejections are rendered moot by the present amendment to Claims 1 and 9. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that the '308 application fails to remedy the deficiencies of the '681 and '279 patents, as discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of the above-noted dependent claims are rendered moot.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 7-9, 15, and 16 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the cited references.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kurt M. Berger", is written over a horizontal line.

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